

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11

RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /196 W

----- 079323

R 151230Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4736

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 0692

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, MP, OCON

SUBJECT: FRANCE EXPELLED FROM FAO AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

PASS USDA FOR PHILLIPS, AID/AFR, AID/TAB/AGR

PANAMA CITY FOR US DEL FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

ROME FOR FODAG

1. FRANCE, IN EFFECT, WAS EXPELLED FROM THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE TODAY. FRANCE AFTER OCCUPYING THE CHAIR ALL WEEK AND ASKING TO SPEAK, HAD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MORNING SESSION MOVED INTO THE CHAIR A MEMBER OF ITS DELEGATION FROM THE COMORES LISTED AS MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF COMORES. AFTER A POINT OF ORDER BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF SIERRA LEONE, SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES INTERVENED AND THERE APPEARED TO BE UNANIMOUS OPINION THAT NEITHER FRANCE NOR THE COMORES MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION COULD SPEAK. WHEN THE CHAIRMAN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MAURITIUS), RECALLED THAT FRANCE WAS A MEMBER

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UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES AND REGULATIONS, THIS WAS

NOT ACCEPTED.

2. THE CHAIRMAN THEN CALLED A BRIEF RECESS. IT IS REPORTED (ADG MENSAH) THAT DURING THE RECESS FRANCE HAD AGREED TO WITHDRAW AND THE COUNTRY'S NAME PLATE HAD BEEN REMOVED AND PLACED IN THE OBSERVER SECTION. FRANCE TO THIS POINT HAS NOT OCCUPIED THE OBSERVER SEAT. FRANCE MAY HAVE INTENTIONALLY PRECIPITATED THIS ACTION. UNDERSTAND FROM ADG WEST THAT FRANCE WAS ADVISED TWO DAYS AGO, WHEN ASKING TO HAVE NAME PUT ON LIST TO SPEAK, THAT THIS WAS VERY LIKELY TO HAPPEN.

3. THE CHAIRMAN THEN CALLED ON THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF COMORES (MOLINACO) WHICH SEVERELY CRITICIZED FRENCH RULE OF THE ISLAND.
MANHARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTL00692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740224-0841
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740845/aaaabmaf.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCE EXPELLED FROM FAO AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE PASS USDA FOR PHILLIPS, AID/AFR, AID/TAB/AGR
TAGS: OCON, MP, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005